



# EPICA deep ice core, an archive for millennial climate change

Hans Oerter

Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research,  
Member of Helmholtz Association, Bremerhaven, Germany

[Hans.Oerter@awi.de](mailto:Hans.Oerter@awi.de)

<http://www.awi.de/People/show?hoerter>



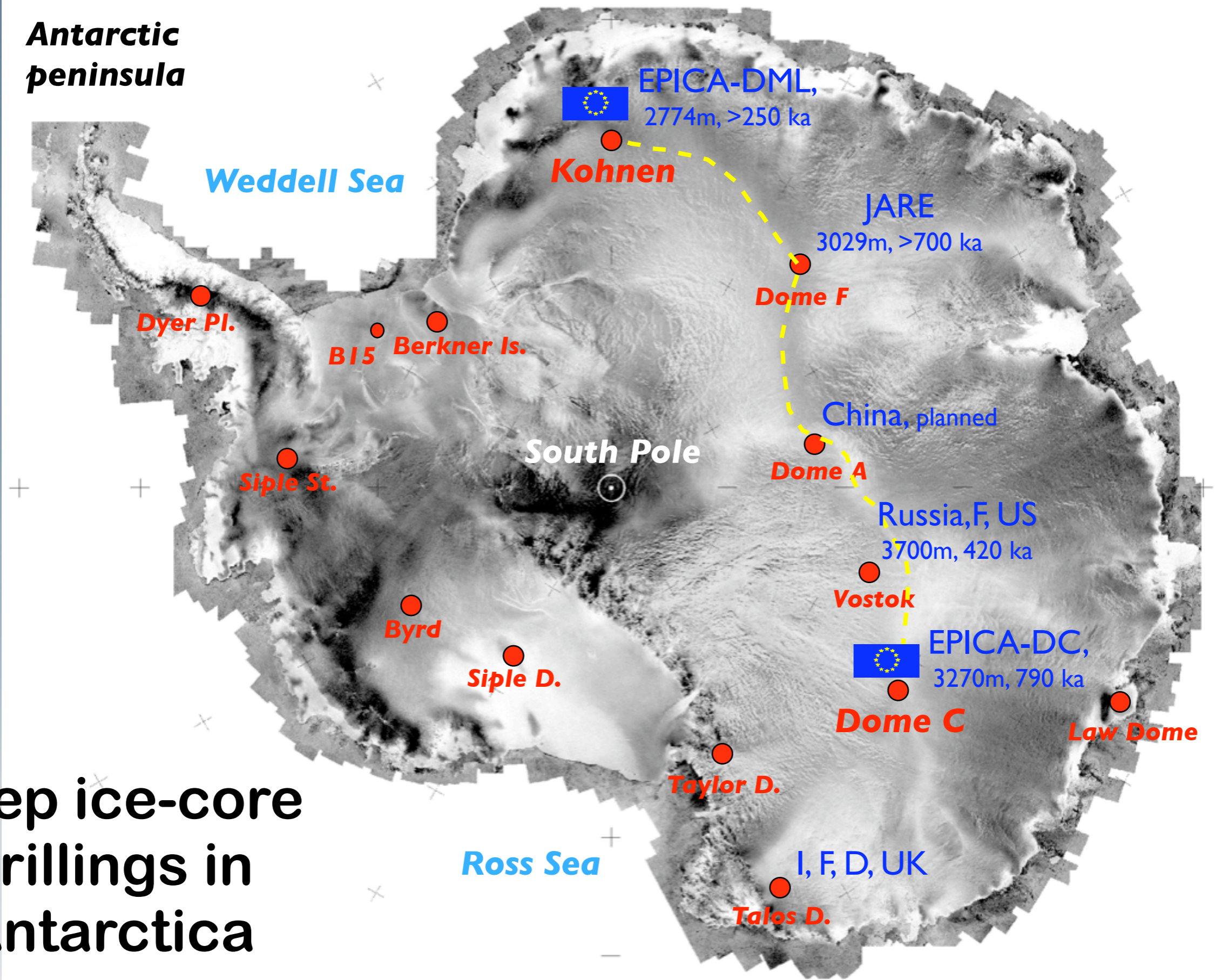
# Introduction: EPICA

The past Glacial

The Holocene

Conclusions

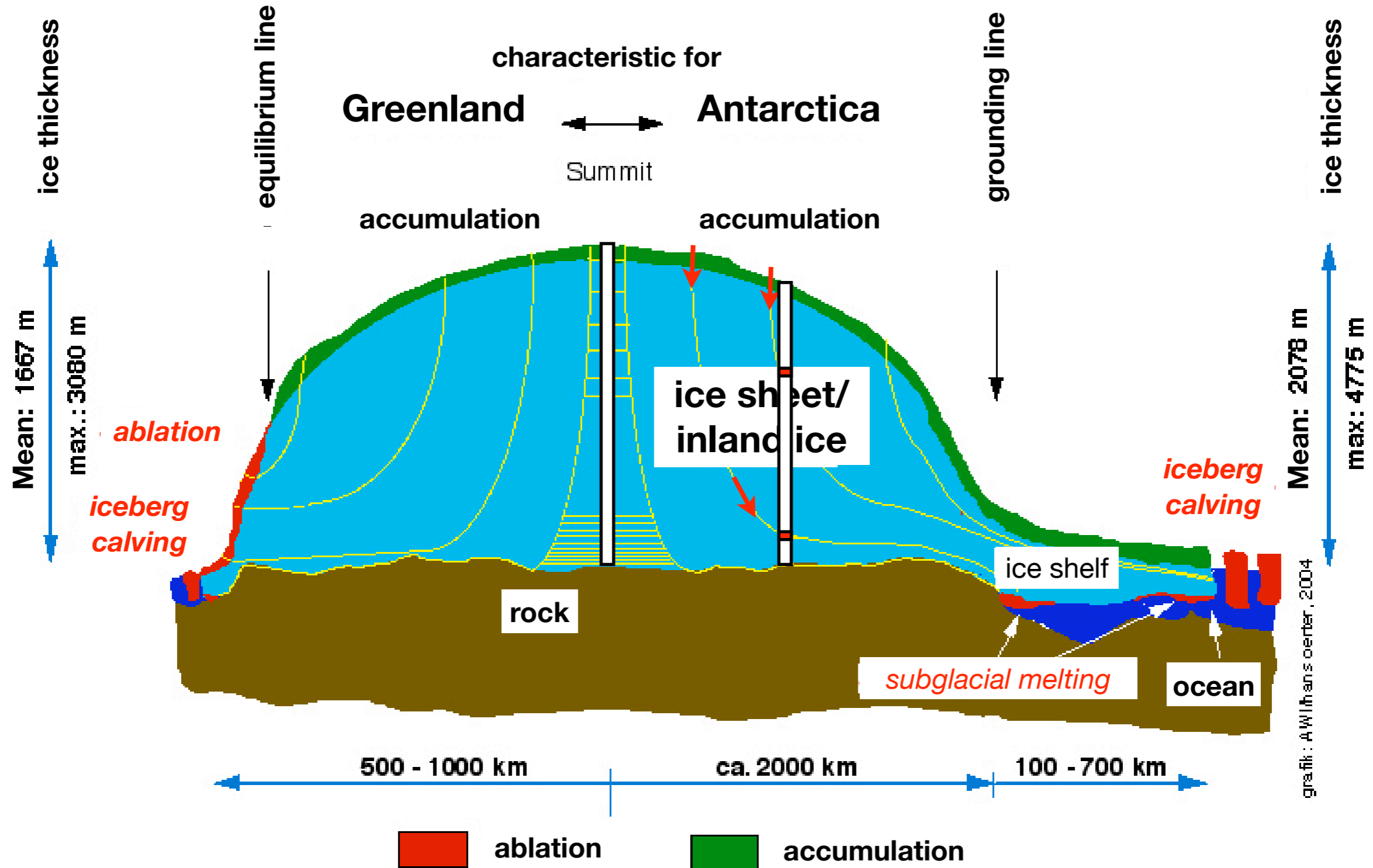
# Antarctic peninsula



## Deep ice-core drillings in Antarctica

layout: w. rack, h. oerter, AWI

# Schematic cross section through an ice sheet



# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

## Kohnen Station

75°00'09"S, 00°04'06"E,  
2892 m (WGS84)

Drilling operation:  
2001-2006

Annual mean air  
temperature: -45 °C

Accumulation rate:  
65 kg m<sup>-2</sup>a<sup>-1</sup>

Ice flow velocity:  
0.756 m/a

Ice thickness:  
2782 ±10m

Length of ice core:  
2774.1 m



foto: hans oerter, 2006

# The climatic record

$\delta^{18}\text{O}$

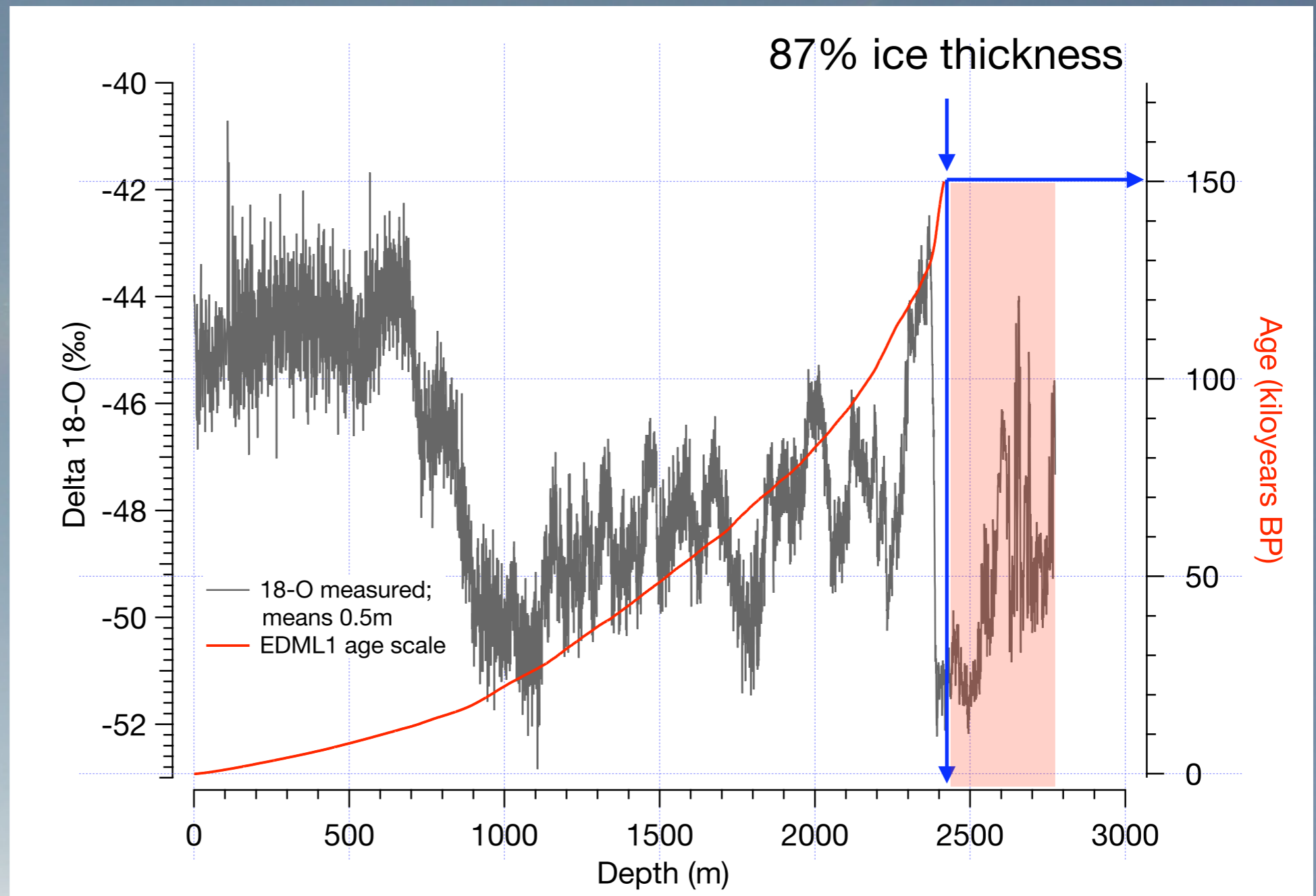


# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

sample resolution:  
0.5 m  
corresponding to  
at 125 m: 6 a  
at 2400 m: 280 a

EDML ice core  
dated down to  
2416 m with  
EDML1 age scale:  
**150.1 ka**

For the Holocene  
and other  
selected intervals  
also 5cm samples  
available

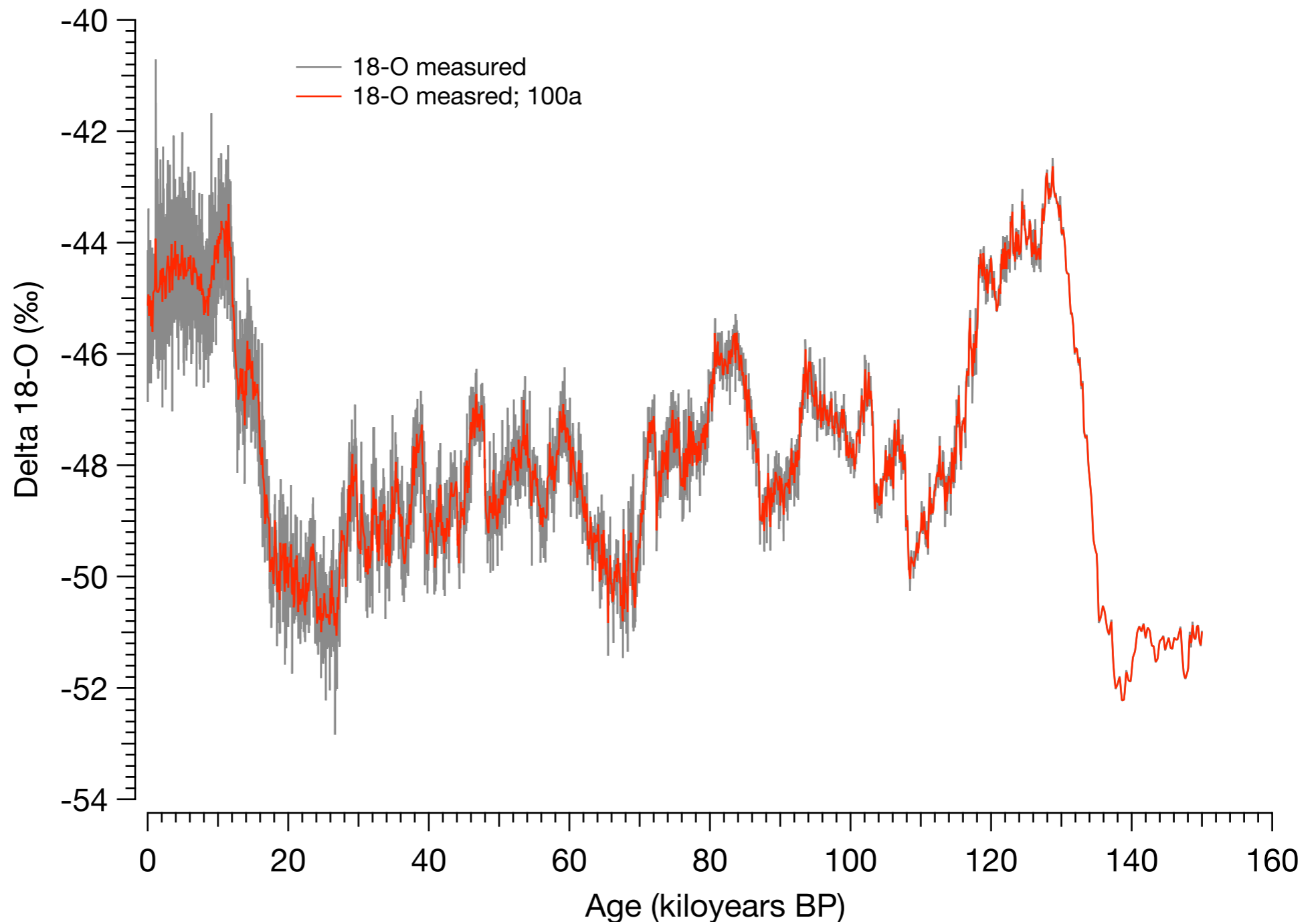


data: EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* 444, 195-198. data: doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270

Measurements of the stable isotope  $^{18}\text{O}$   
given as  $\delta$ -values in ‰ V-SMOW

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

## Raw data



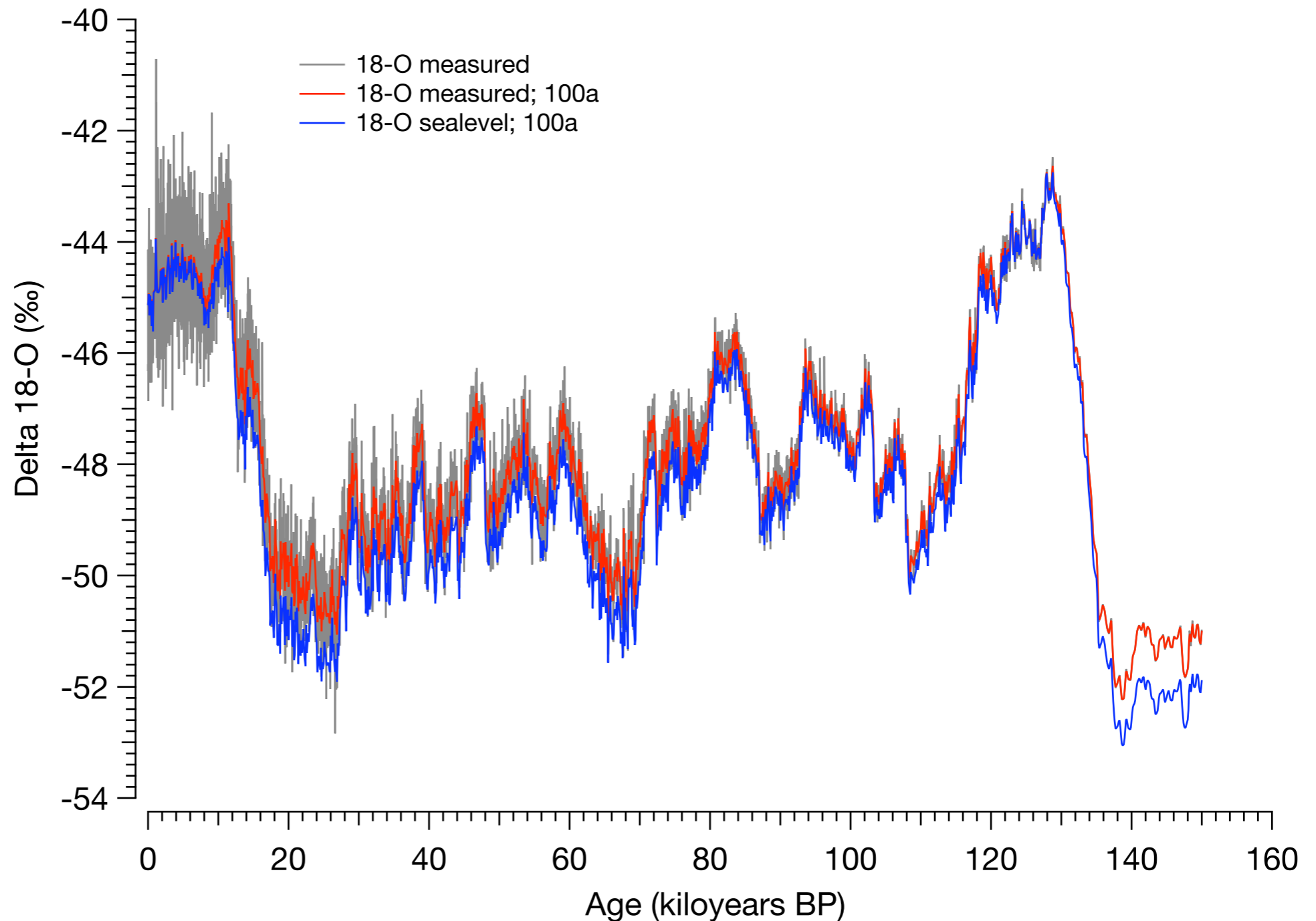
Data of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  plotted against time; 0.5m samples (grey) and re-sampled on 100a intervals (red)

(AnaySeries2.0 software, Paillard et al., EOS Trans. AGU, 1996)



# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

Raw data  
+  
sea level  
correction



Data of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  corrected for sea level change in the past and re-sampled on 100a intervals (blue)

(AnaySeries2.0 software, Paillard et al., EOS Trans. AGU, 1996)

4<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Intern. Seminar on Antarctica, Legacy of IPY to the Tropics, Kuala Lumpur, 1.-3. April 2009

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

Raw data

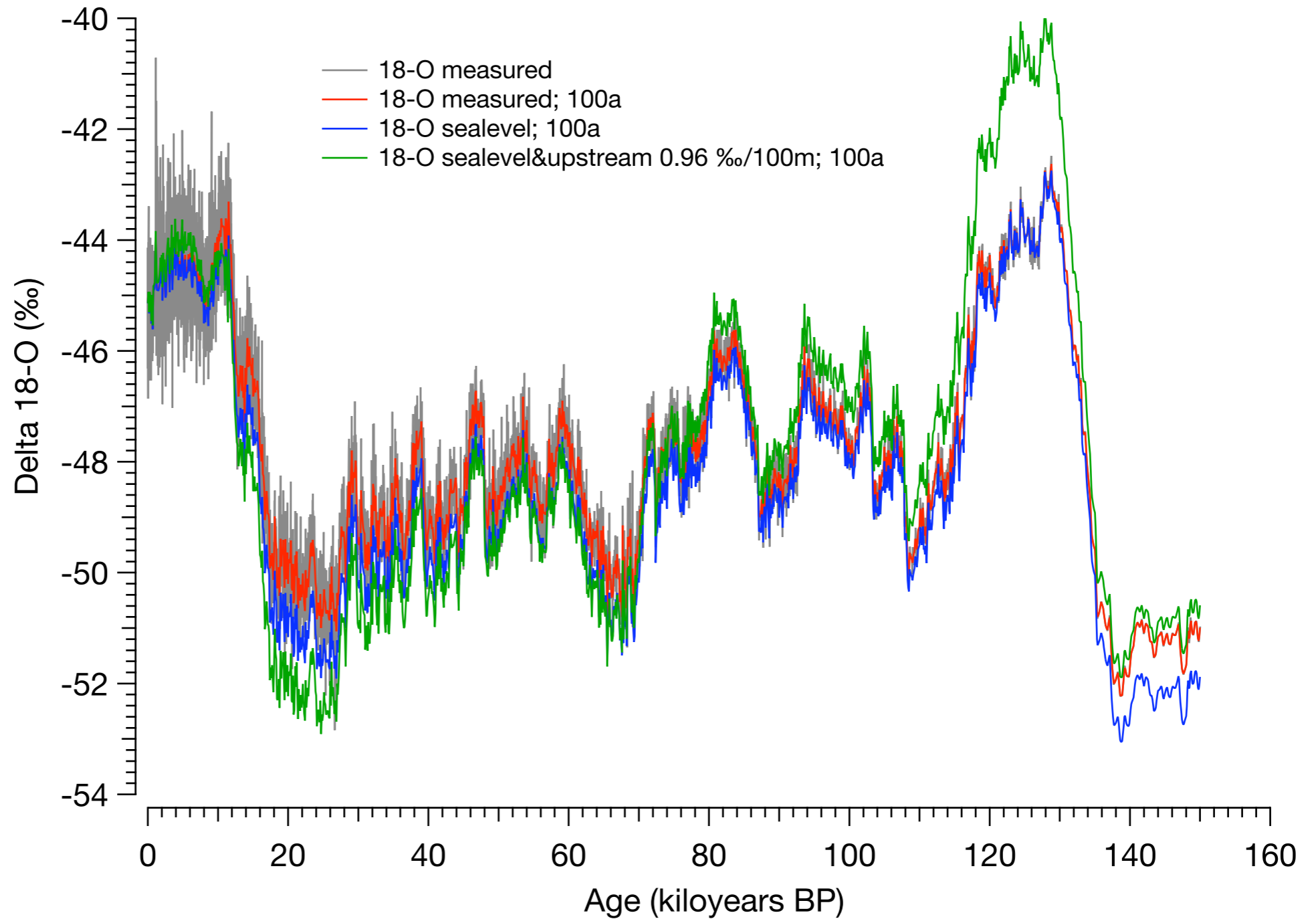
+

sea level  
correction

+

upstream  
correction

0.96‰/100m



Data of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  corrected for elevation differences between Kohnen and site of deposition (green)

(AnaySeries2.0 software, Paillard et al., EOS Trans. AGU, 1996)

4<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Intern. Seminar on Antarctica, Legacy of IPY to the Tropics, Kuala Lumpur, 1.-3. April 2009

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

Raw data

+

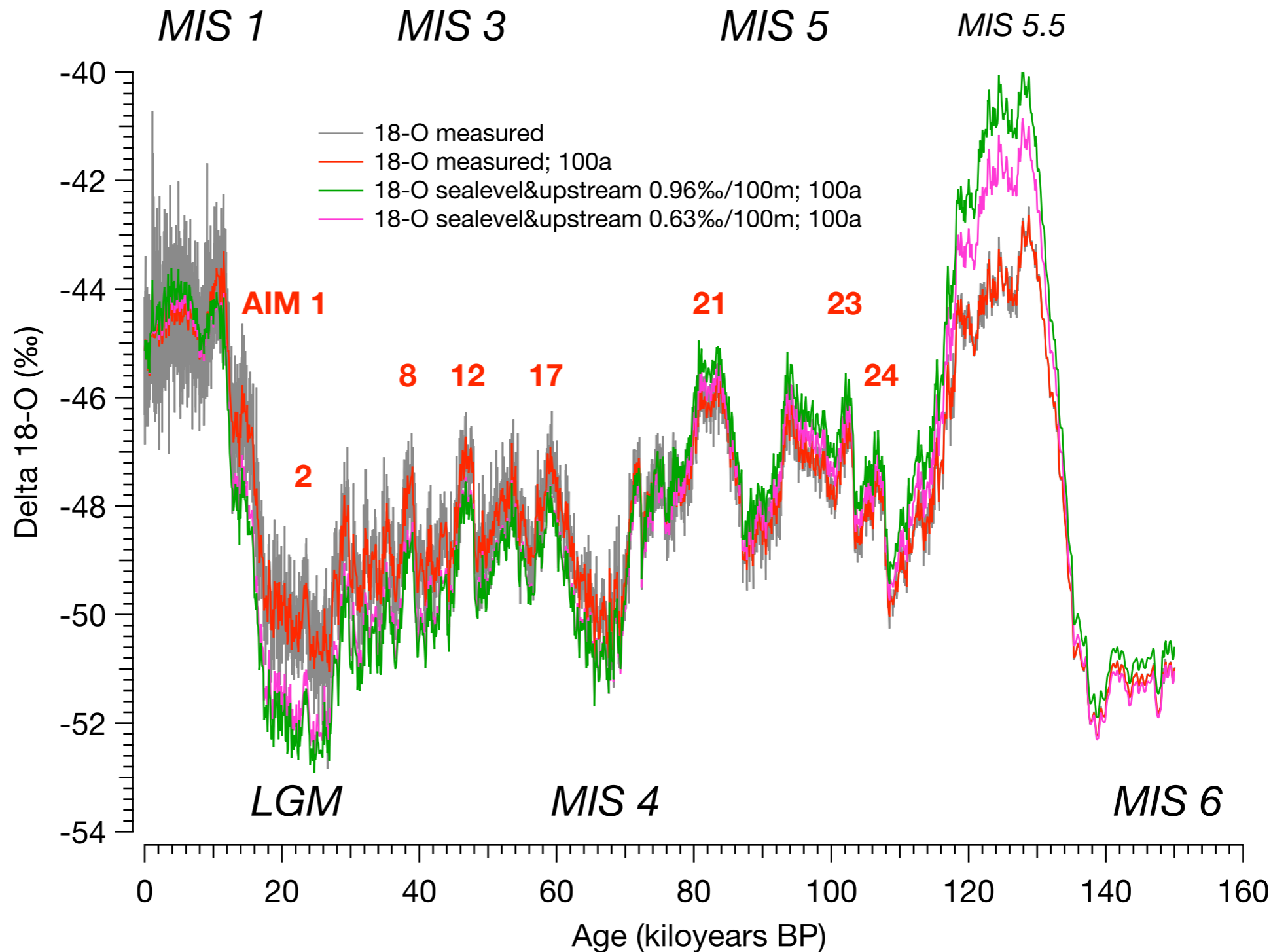
sea level correction

+

upstream correction

0.96‰/100m

0.63‰/100m



data: EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* 444, 195-198. data: doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270

Data of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  corrected for elevation differences between Kohnen and site of deposition (green/pink)

(AnaySeries2.0 software, Paillard et al., EOS Trans. AGU, 1996)

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

Raw data

+

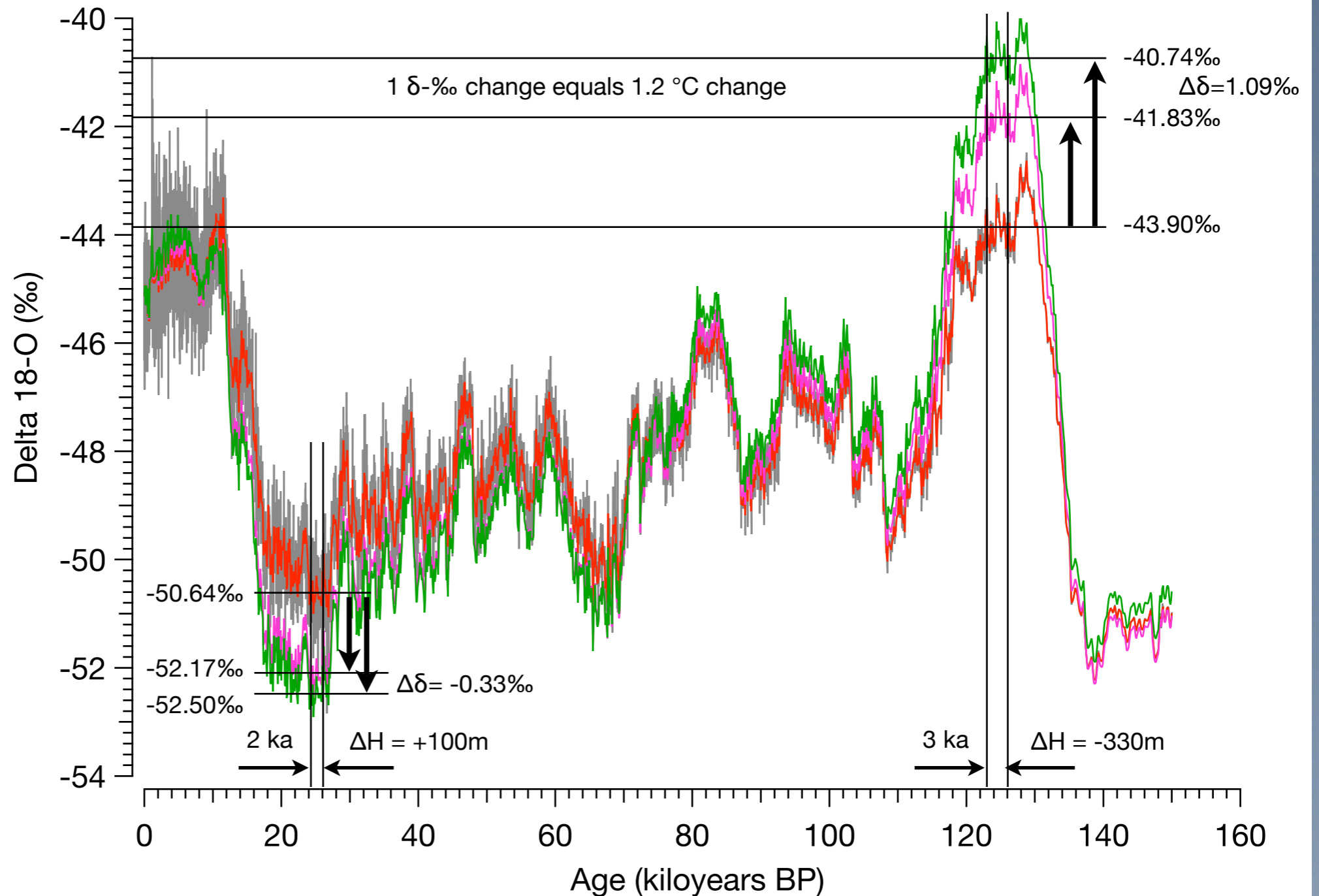
sea level correction

+

upstream correction

0.96‰/100m

0.63‰/100m

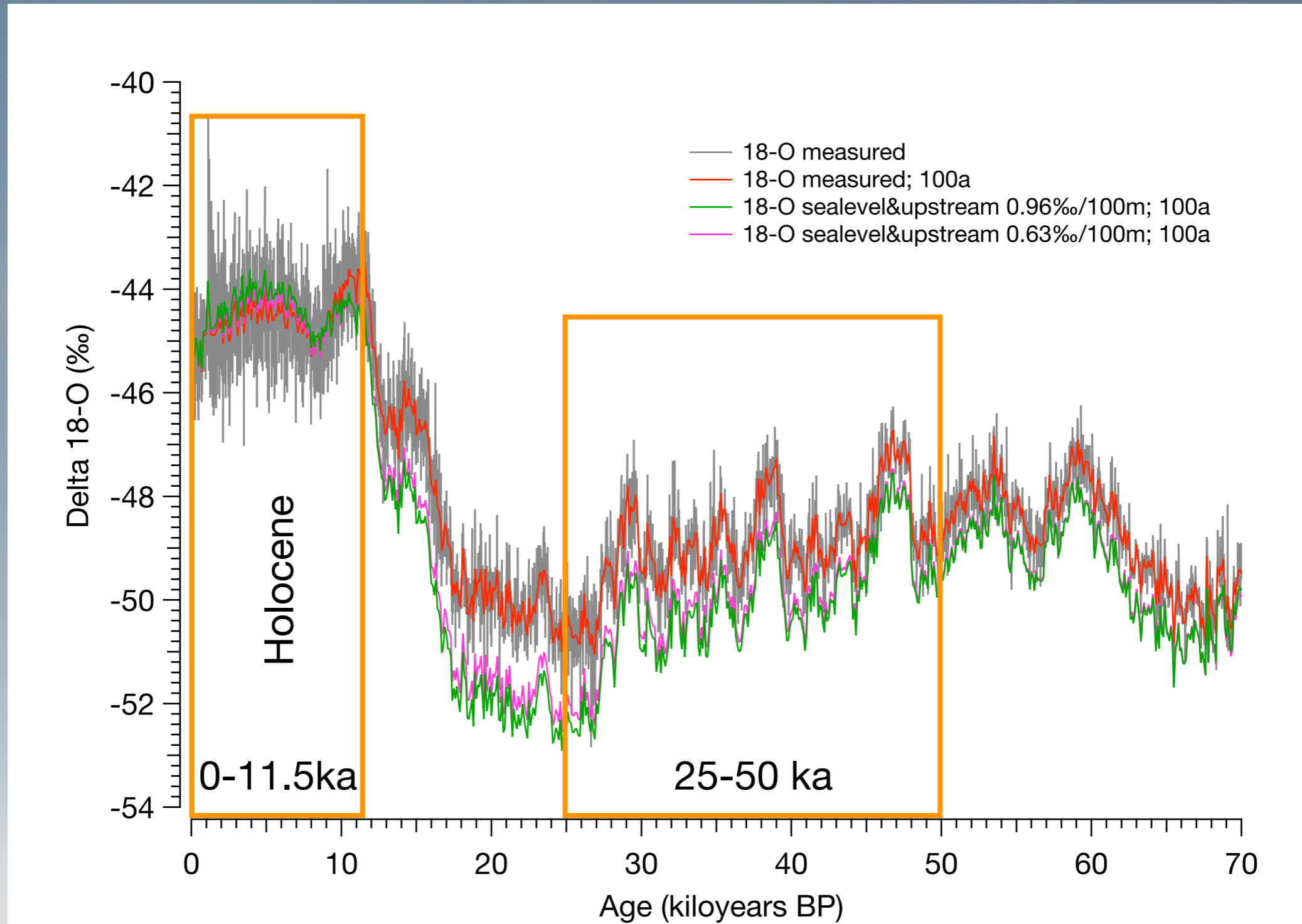


data: EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* 444, 195-198. data: doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270

Data of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  corrected for elevation differences between Kohnen and site of deposition (green/pink)

(AnaySeries2.0 software, Paillard et al., EOS Trans. AGU, 1996)

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core



2 time slices for millennial variability

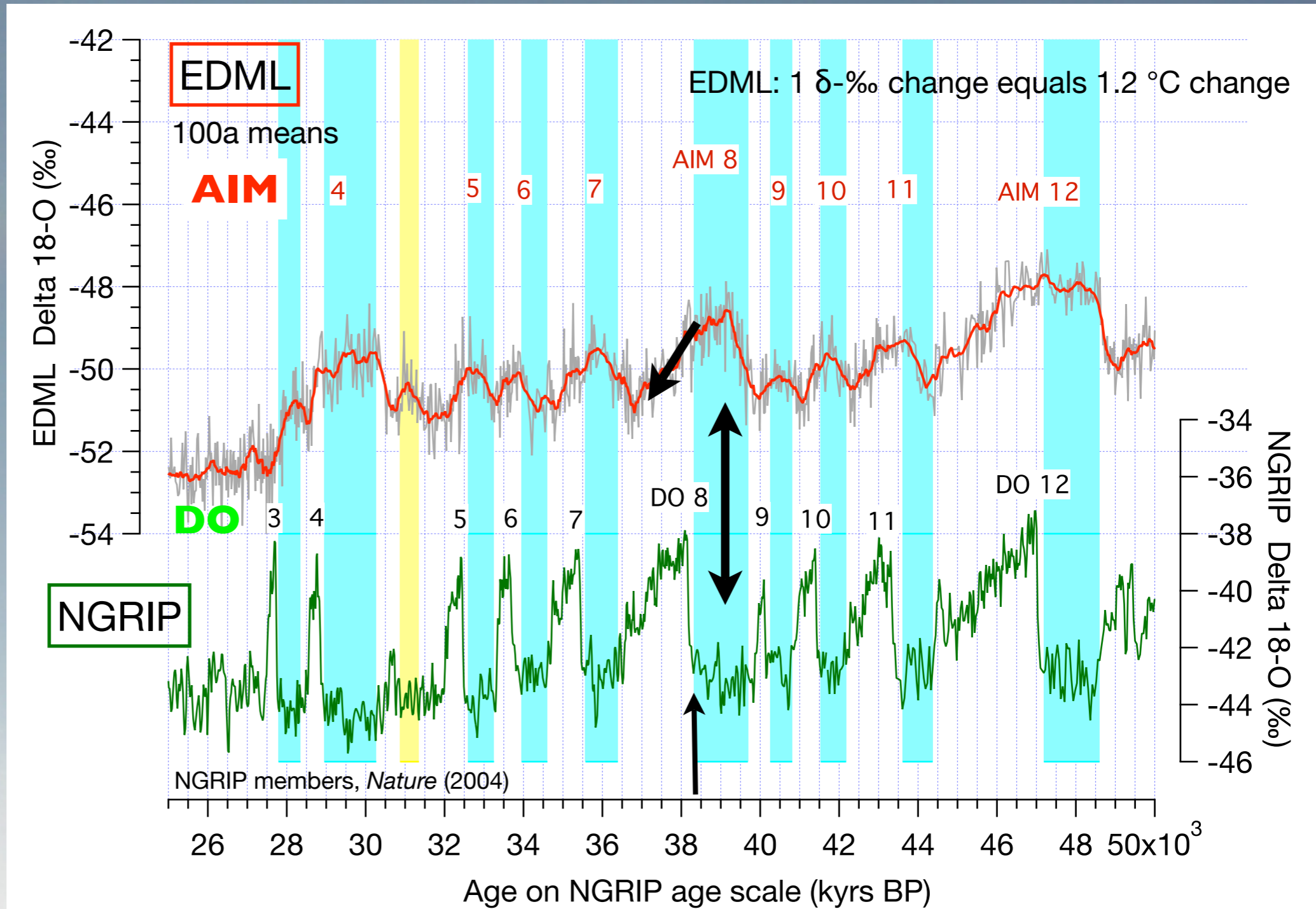
# The past Glacial (25-50 kyears B.P.)



# Comparison Antarctica (EDML) - Greenland (NGRIP)

Each Antarctic Isotope Maximum (AIM) in the EDML-ice core corresponds to a Dansgaard/Oeschger (DO) event in Greenland (NGRIP)

Warming in Antarctica starts in a cold phase (Stadial) of the North, Cooling in a warm phase (Interstadial)



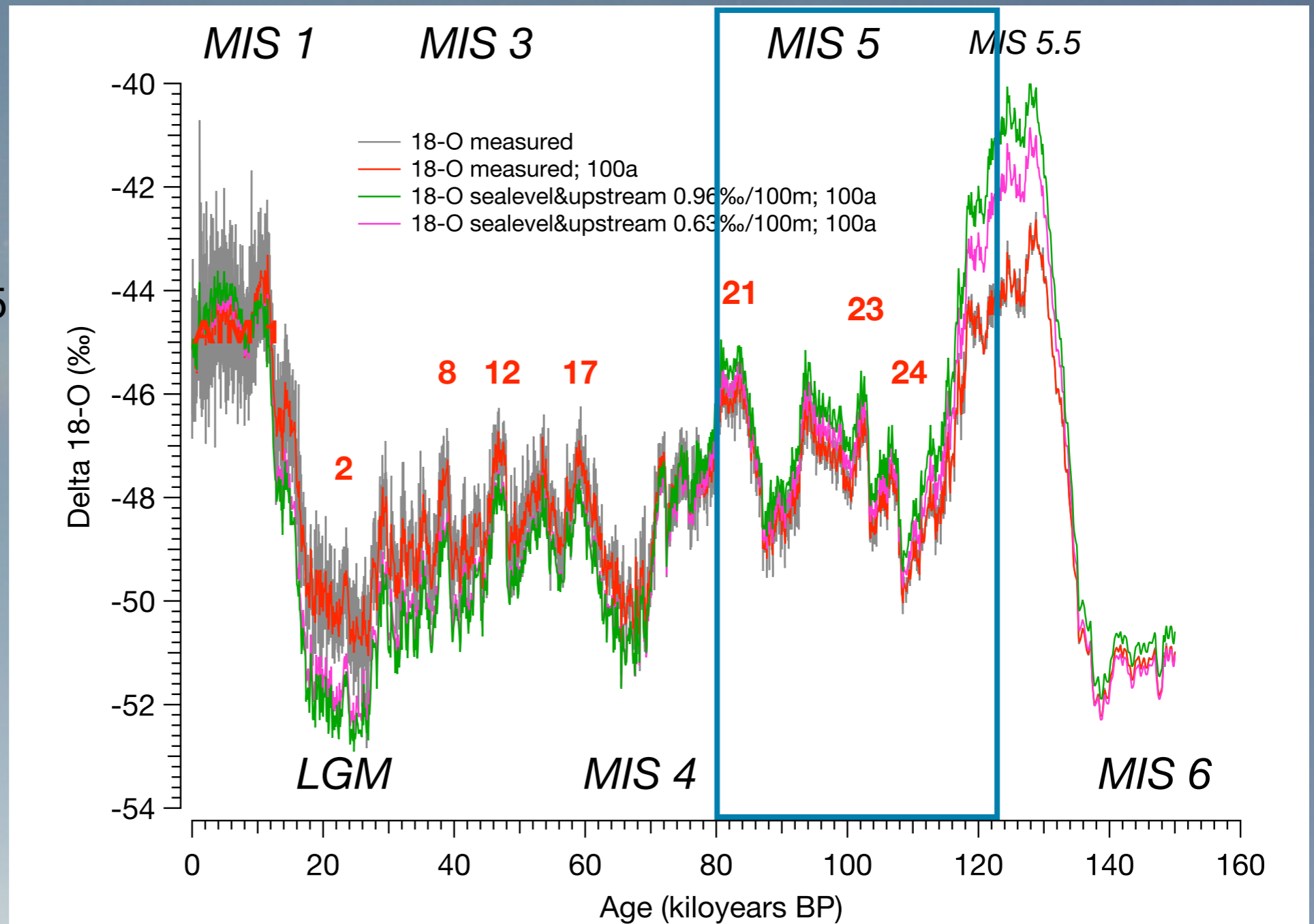
Source: EPICA Community Members: *Nature*, 444, 195-198, (2006). data: doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552235

# The climatic record of the EDML ice core

## The bi-polar seesaw

is also evident for MIS 5 as shown by E. Capron et al. (subm.) by synchronizing EDML and NGRIP with CH<sub>4</sub> &  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  for the period 80-123 ka BP.

The bi-polar seesaw is also very likely for earlier Glacials (Jouzel et al., *Science* 2007)



E. Capron et al.: Synchronising EDML and NorthGRIP ice cores using  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of atmospheric oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ ) and CH<sub>4</sub> measurements over MIS 5 (80-123 ka). submitted to *Quaternary Science Reviews*

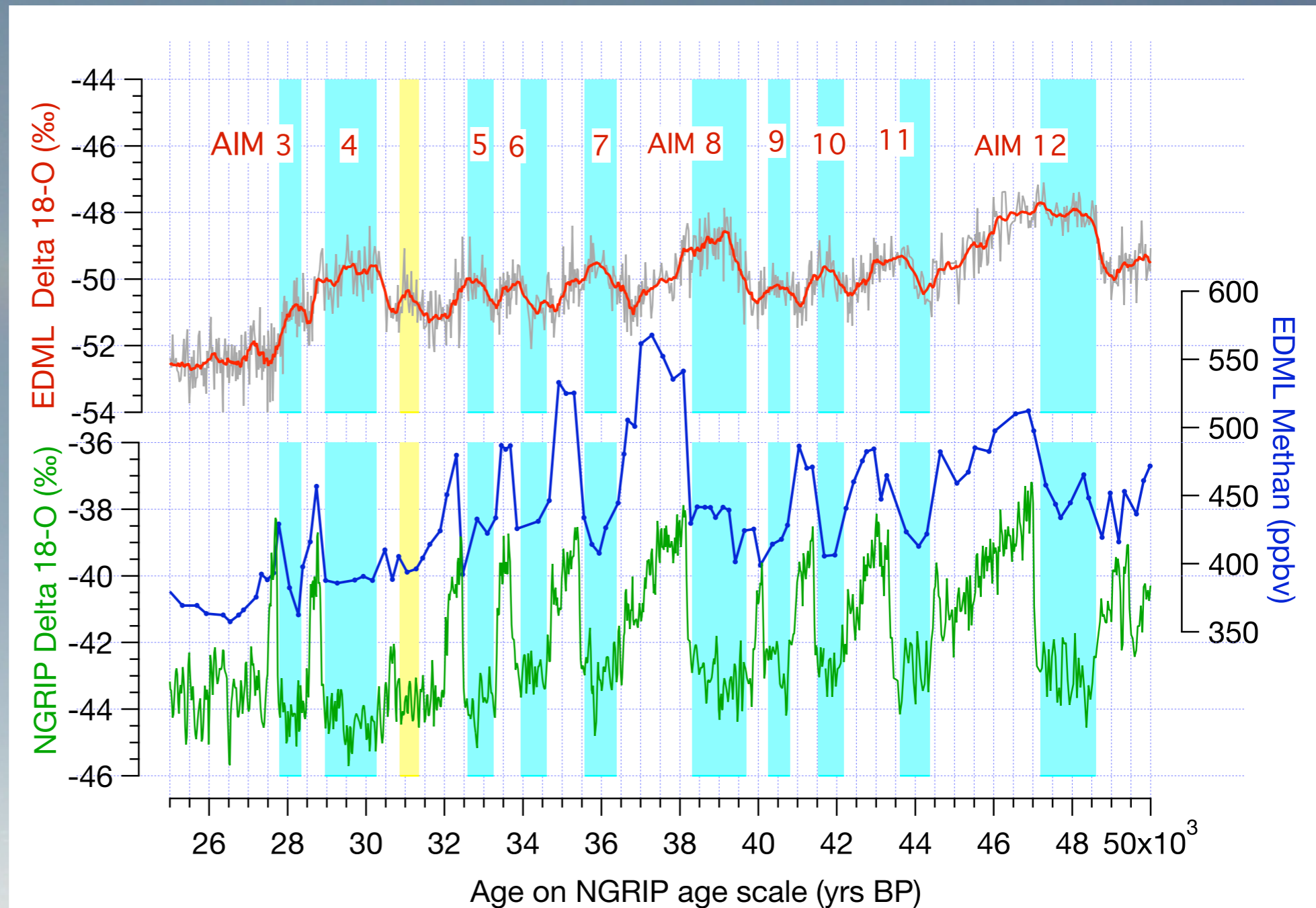


# CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations at EDML

CH<sub>4</sub> variations synchronous on global scale: tool to synchronize ice cores

CH<sub>4</sub> synchronous with DO events in Greenland

CH<sub>4</sub> signal of the Northern Hemisphere



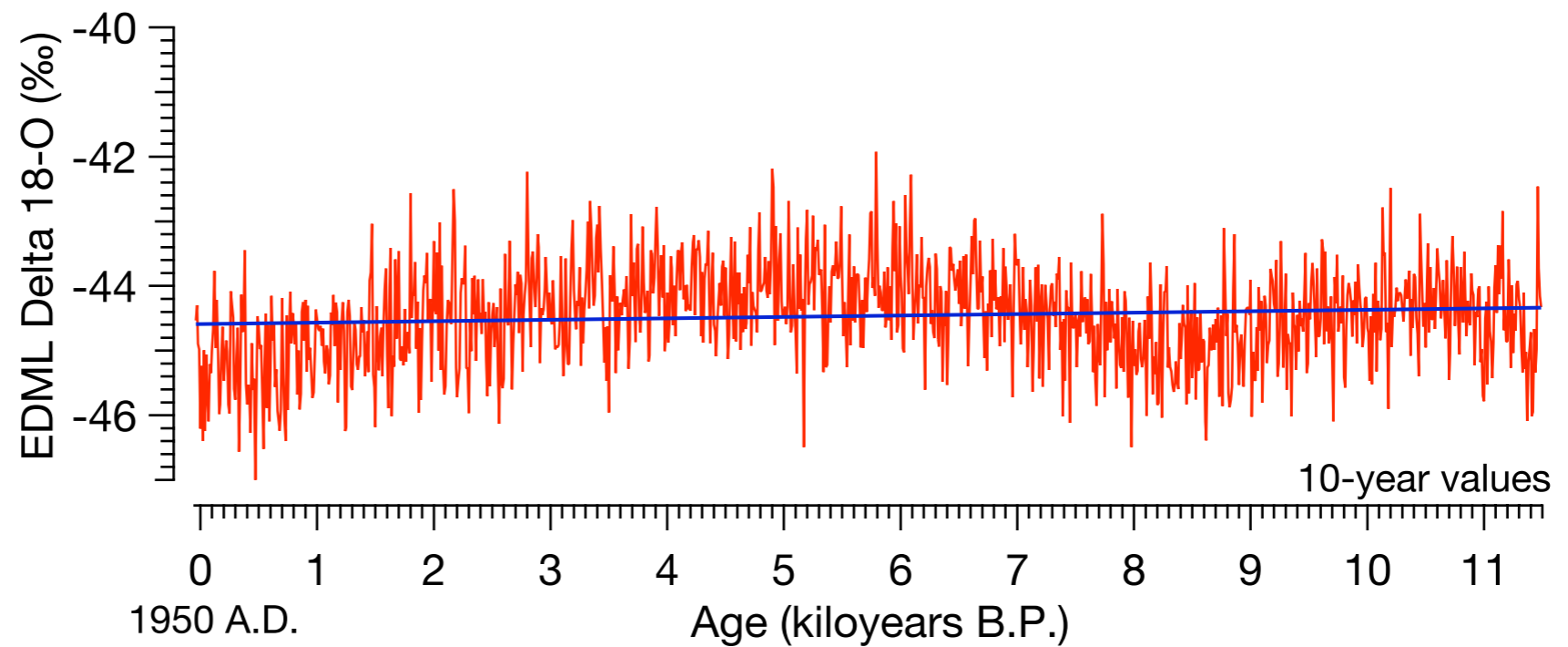
Source: EPICA Community Members: *Nature*, **444**, 195-198, (2006).  
data: doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552235 & doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552232

# The Holocene

## The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record

# The Holocene

EPICA EDML core

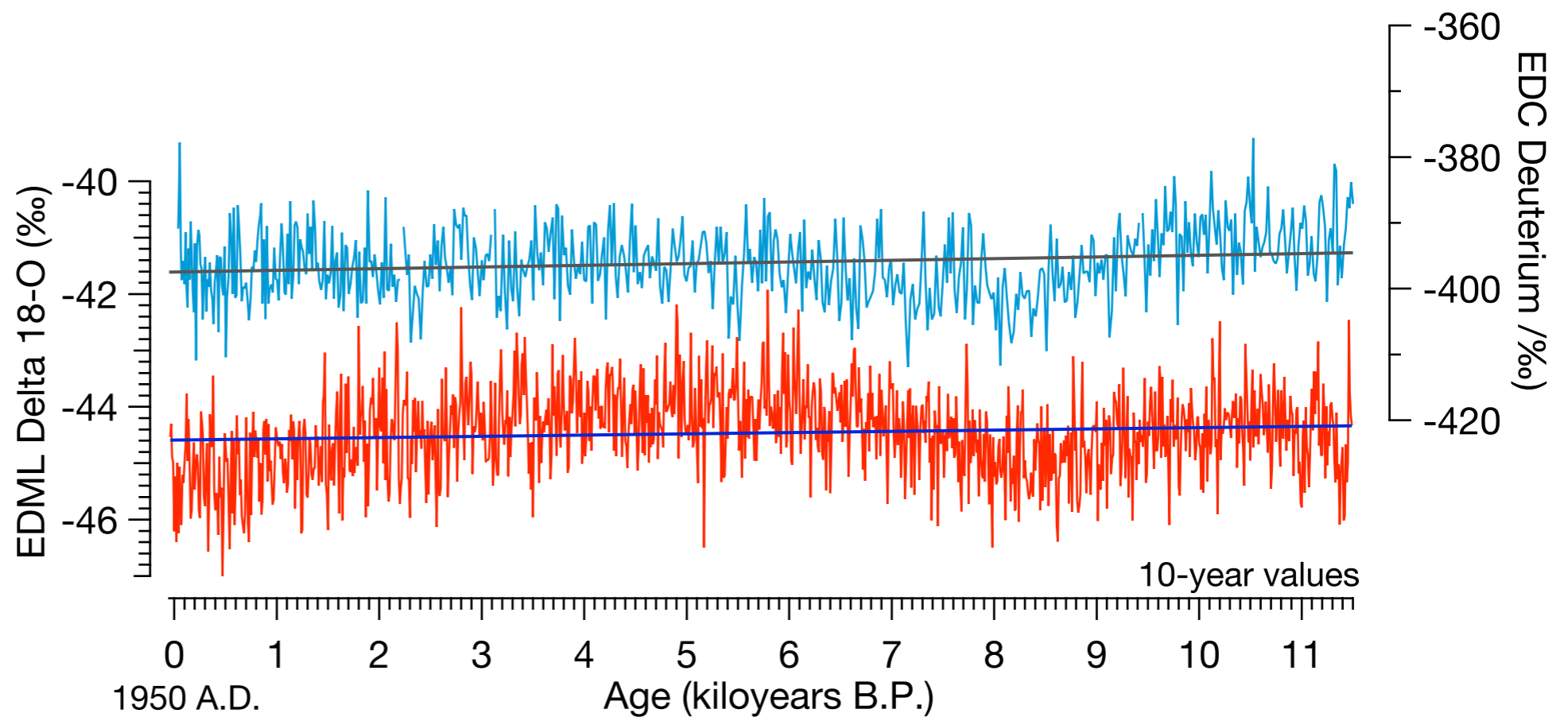


EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* 444, 195-198 (data: [doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270](https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.552270))

# The Holocene

EPICA EDC core

EPICA EDML core



EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* **444**, 195-198 (data: [doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270](https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.552270))

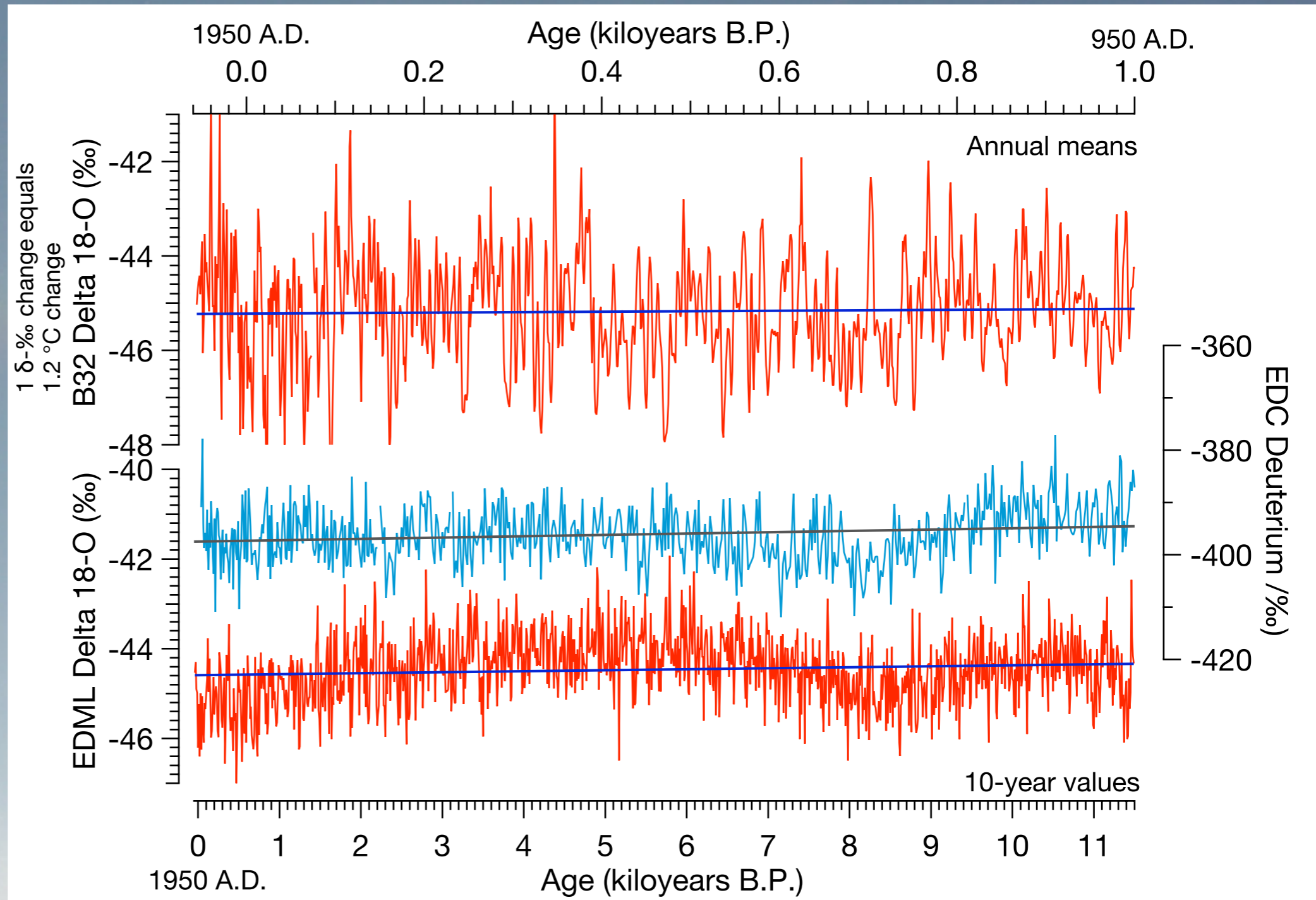
Orbital and Millennial Antarctic Climate Variability over the Past 800,000 Years (2007). *Science* **317**, 793-796 (data: [http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/icecore/antarctica/domec/domec\\_epica\\_data.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/icecore/antarctica/domec/domec_epica_data.html))

# The Holocene

**B32:**  
150m deep ice core, 1.6 km west of EDML, drilled in Dec 1997.

**EPICA EDC core**

**EPICA EDML core**



EPICA Community Members (2006): One-to-one coupling of glacial climate variability in Greenland and Antarctica. *Nature* **444**, 195-198 (data: [doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.552270](https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.552270))

Orbital and Millennial Antarctic Climate Variability over the Past 800,000 Years (2007). *Science* **317**, 793-796 (data: [http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/icecore/antarctica/domec/domec\\_epica\\_data.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/icecore/antarctica/domec/domec_epica_data.html))

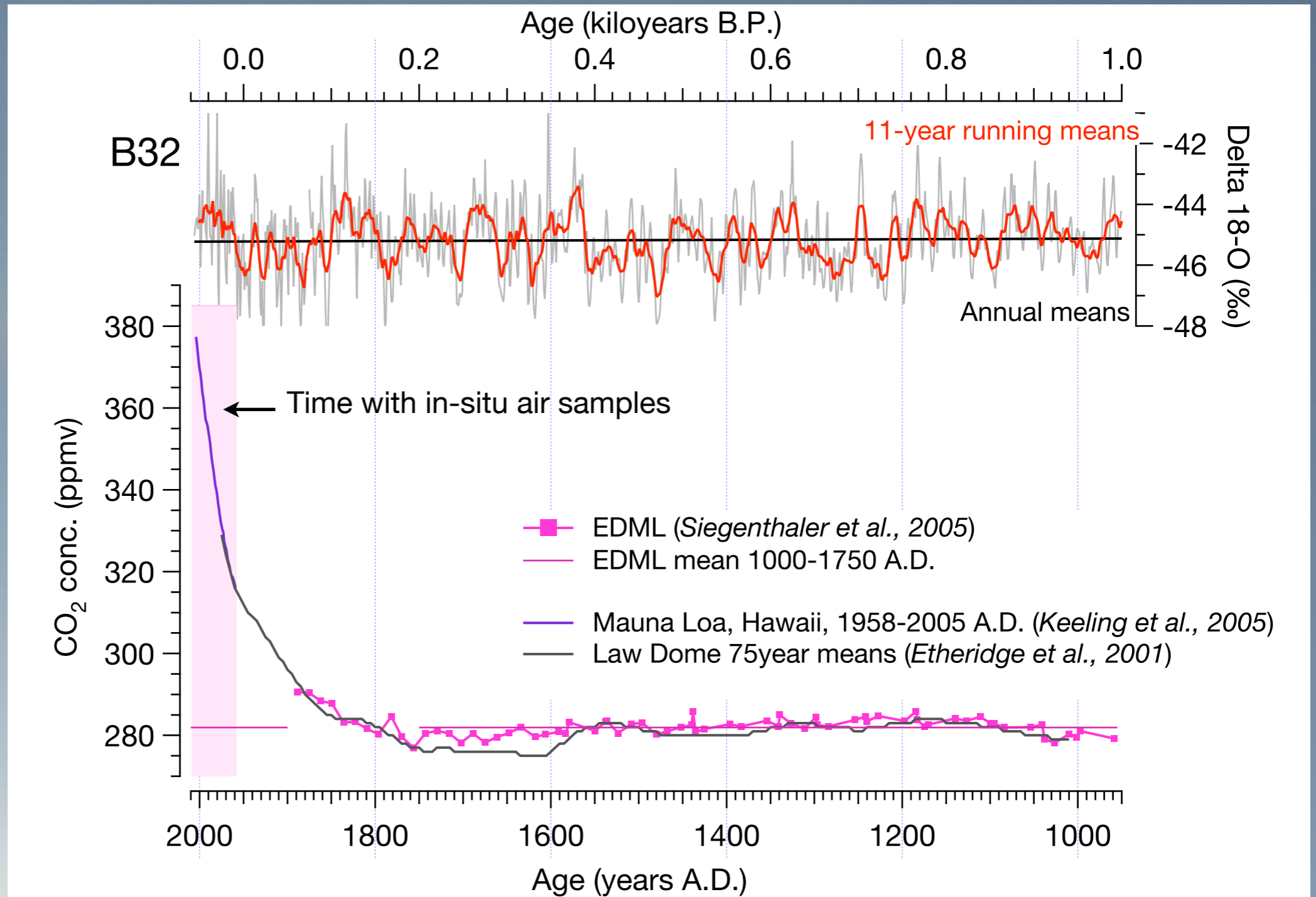
Graf, W. et al. (2002). Stable-isotope records from Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica, *Annals of Glaciology*, 35, 195-201 (data: [doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.104881](https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.104881))

# The Holocene

## The CO<sub>2</sub> record



# CO<sub>2</sub> record during the past millenium



The EDML CO<sub>2</sub> record is a strong support of the Law Dome record from the Antarctic plateau

Etheridge, D.M., et al. (2001): Law Dome Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Data, IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology. Data Contribution Series #2001-083. **NOAA/NGDC** Paleoclimatology Program, Boulder CO, USA.

Keeling, C.D., T.P. Whorf, and the Carbon Dioxide Research Group (2005): Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (ppmv) derived from in situ air samples collected at Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii. Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) University of California La Jolla, California USA

Siegenthaler, U., et al. (2005). Supporting evidence from the EPICA Dronning Maud Land ice core for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> changes during the past millenium, *Tellus*, **57B**, 51-57. (doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.472477)

# Conclusions

Upstream corrections needed

Antarctic Isotope Maxima (AIMs) are counterparts to DO events in Greenland

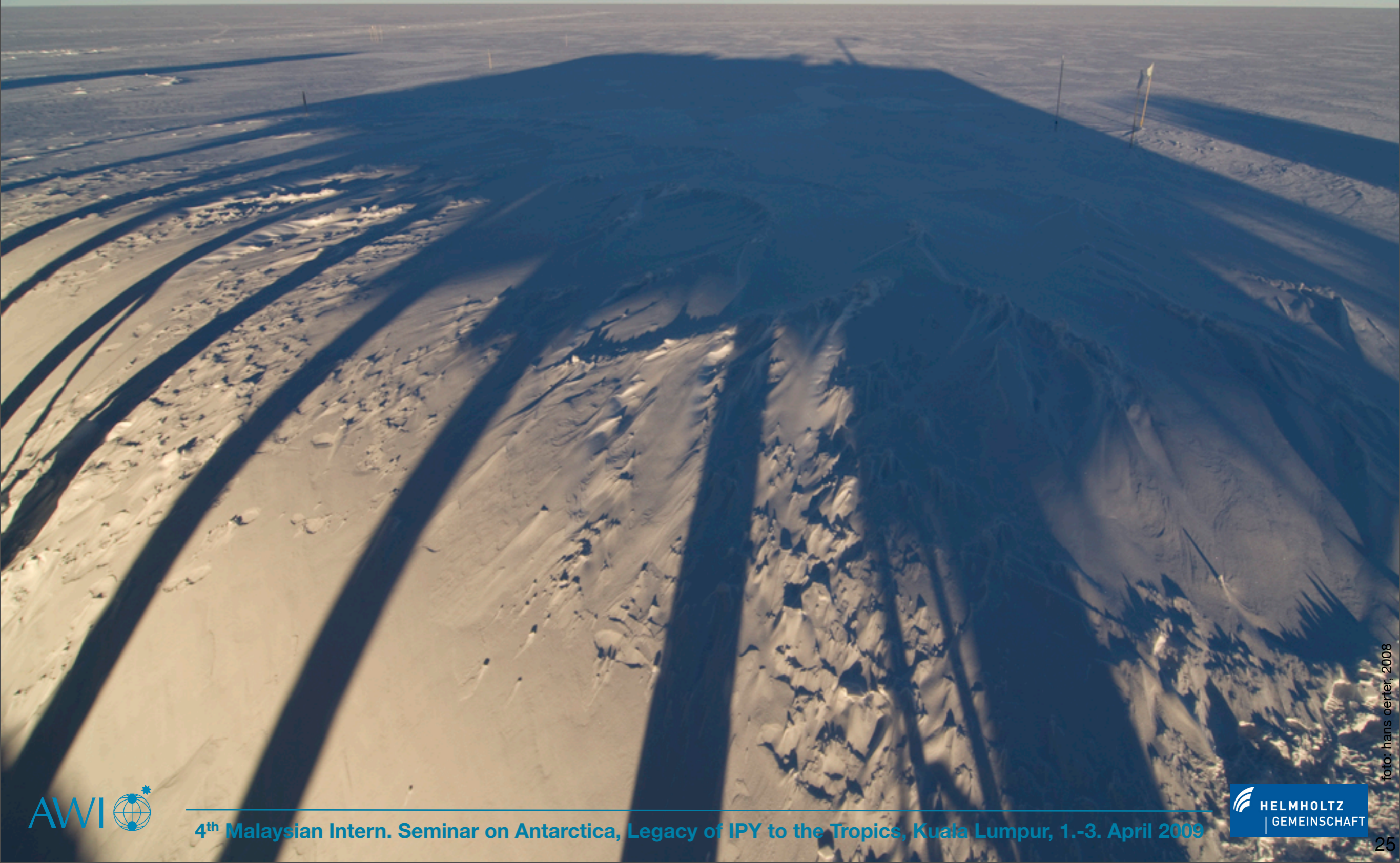
CH<sub>4</sub> synchronous with DO events

Holocene incl. past Millenium little  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  variations

The EDML CO<sub>2</sub> record is a strong support of the Law Dome record from the Antarctic plateau



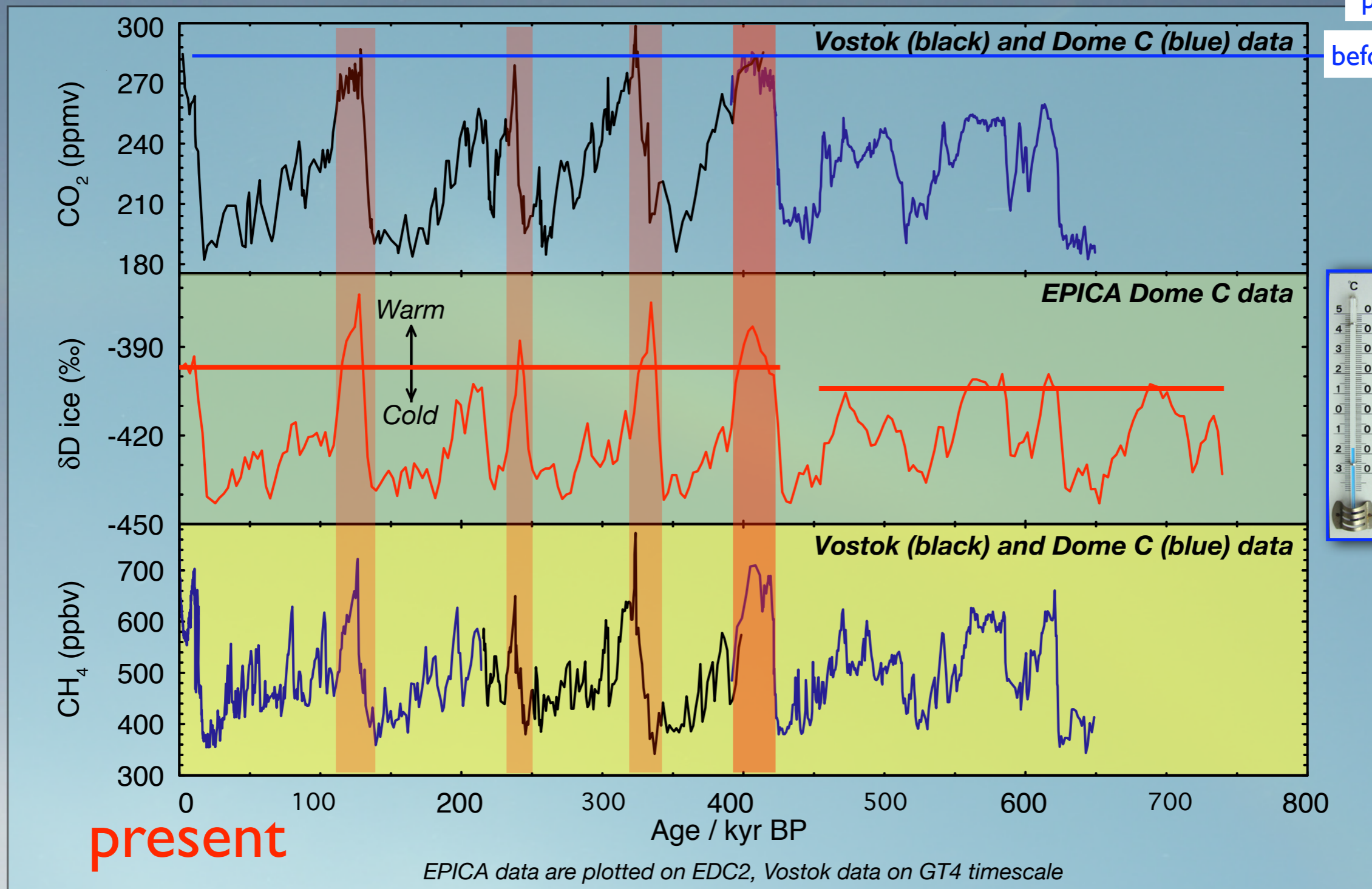
# Thanks for your attention



# Antarctic ice core records: Vostok and EPICA CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and δD

present 375

before 1850 AD



Petit et al., 1999 (Vostok), Siegenthaler et al., 2005 (Dome C - CO<sub>2</sub>), Spahni et al., 2005 (Dome C - CH<sub>4</sub>), EPICA community members, 2004 (δD)

